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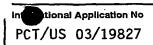
(54) Title: A METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE SELECTIVITY OF A CATALYST AND A PROCESS FOR THE EPOXIDATION OF AN OLEFIN

(57) Abstract: A method for improving the selectivity of a supported highly selective epoxidation catalyst comprising silver in a quantity of at most 0.19 g per m² surface area of the support, which method comprises - contacting the catalyst, or a precursor of the catalyst comprising the silver in cationic form, with a feed comprising oxygen at a catalyst temperature above 250 °C for a duration of up to 150 hours, and - subsequently decreasing the catalyst temperature to a value of at most 250 °C; and a process for the epoxidation of an olefin, which process comprises - contacting a supported highly selective epoxidation catalyst comprising silver in a quantity of at most 0.19 g per m² surface area of the support, or a precursor of the catalyst comprising the silver in cationic form, with a feed comprising oxygen at a catalyst temperature above 250 °C for a duration of up to 150 hours, and - subsequently decreasing the catalyst temperature to a value of at most 250 °C and contacting the catalyst with the feed comprising the olefin and oxygen.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B01J37/08 B01J37/14 C07D301/10

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

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[V] E	-/ ner documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Y Patent family members are listed in	

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 	 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 1 June 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report 11/06/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Steendijk, M

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